



Lincoln Day Celebrations

"I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

1809—1909

Program of Celebration

COMMEMORATING
THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF

Abraham Lincoln



C I N C I N N A T I

MUSIC HALL, FEBRUARY 12, 1909

2:30 P. M.

"A blend of mirth and sadness, smiles and tears,
A quaint knight-errant of the pioneers;
A homely hero born of star and sod,
A peasant prince—a masterpiece of God."

THE LINCOLN CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.



IN the October meeting of the Board of Managers of the Cincinnati Schoolmasters' Club last autumn, it was suggested that steps should be taken to celebrate fittingly the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. President E. D. Lyon promptly appointed a committee, consisting of W. C. Washburn, Charles Ottermann and W. P. Burris, to formulate and perfect plans for such a celebration.

The first act of the committee was to address letters to the many civic, business, German, educational, patriotic, and other bodies, clubs and societies in our city, inviting them to name representatives with power to act to confer relative to organization and ways and means to accomplish the purpose. At this conference in the Board of Education Chamber, City Hall, Friday, October 30th, there were present representatives from fifty odd organizations. A president was elected and a committee appointed to report back at a subsequent meeting a name for the association and nominations of additional officers. At this meeting, November 13th, the name "Lincoln Centennial Memorial Association" was unanimously adopted and a complete organization was effected. Committees were provided for as follows: Finance, Hall and Decorations, Music, Souvenirs and Program, Speakers, Publicity, Holiday and Permanent Memorial. It was also determined to hold the celebration in Music Hall the afternoon of Friday, February 12th.

It was decided not to appeal to the general public, save as a last resort, for funds to meet the expenses of the celebration, but to rely upon the represented bodies to contribute the amount needed. The association now has 136 members, representing more than one hundred organizations.

The various committees have worked earnestly with gratifying results. The work of the Permanent Memorial Committee, however, has but begun. Its purpose is to establish in our city some adequate permanent memorial to Abraham Lincoln. It should certainly, and doubtless will, have the sympathetic co-operation of every person who reveres the memory of "The Greatest American."

The gratitude of the association is hereby extended to the Board of Education, the Traction Company, Mr. Walter Canfield, Manager of Auditorium, the local press and its reporters, to all the contributing organizations, and to numerous citizens, for the many facilities, substantial aid and encouragement it has received from these sources.

SYNOPSIS OF ODE.

The "Ode to Lincoln," a work for three equal voices and full orchestral accompaniment, is the story, in song, of Lincoln's life.

Of the poem, the composer of the music has this to say: "Upon first reading, 'Our Lincoln' impressed me with its inherent beauty and musical possibilities. I saw in it grandeur, pathos, tenderness, exaltation and noble patriotism. It is one of the most unique and appealing in our Lincoln literature."

OUR LINCOLN.

PART I. All honor to our glorious dead,
Whose matchless life rare radiance shed
Upon his country's fame;
Sweet be the memory that clings,
And pure the tribute each heart brings
To the exalted name
Of Lincoln, our Lincoln.

PART II. Who else in squalid cabin born,
With youth of chance and comfort shorn,
Could reach such noble height?
Who else assailed by blighting scorn,
When patience others had forsworn,
Could keep soul calm and bright
As Lincoln, our Lincoln?

PART III. And when in one fell, fateful hour,
Rebellion rose in horrid power,
The Union to assail,
Who led the Nation in its might
To stay secession's deadly blight,
And over it prevail,
But Lincoln, our Lincoln?

PART IV. Oh, why, when victory was won,
When swords were sheathed and war's fierce gun
Was hushed throughout the land—
His great heart full of well-earned joy—
Should rash and cruel plot destroy
With hatred-guided hand,
This Lincoln, our Lincoln!

FINALE. Now lovingly we speak his name;
No more does foe deride or blame;
For him is love alone.
Emancipator, patriot true,
And statesman, ruler, martyr, too—
The world claims for its own
Our Lincoln, our Lincoln.

W. C. WASHBURN.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The music follows strictly the idea and varying moods contained in the poem.

There are five principal and distinct themes:

The first (in D Major) is one of exaltation on the words (Part I), "All honor to our glorious dead."

The second theme (in F Major) is one of great tenderness on the words (Part I), "Sweet be the memory that clings;" and occurs again on the words (Finale), "Now lovingly we speak his name."

The third theme (B Minor) is one of sadness and tender pity at the thought of Lincoln's humble beginning and early hardships. The words are, "Who else in squalid cabin born?" (Part II.)

The fourth theme (Part III.) is one of agitation and unrest, and pictures the assailing of the Union. The words are, "And when in one, fell, fateful hour, Rebellion rose in horrid power."

This theme is worked up to a terrible climax on the words, "The Union to assail," in which all the choral and orchestral forces are brought into play.

After this climax, the theme of tender pity is again heard as the mind thinks of Lincoln, "Who lead the nation in its might."

Part IV. is descriptive and aims to picture the feelings of the South in contrast with those of the North. The North is joyous and elated by the final victory; the South is desolate, wasted, and looks into a future of blank uncertainty; and the opening theme of Part IV. (F Sharp Minor) played alone by the oboe, can well picture that awful loneliness and desolation.

But while this picture is on the mind, the sound of the fife and drum are heard, and the faint echoes of "The Girl I Left Behind Me," tell the story of the victorious hosts returning home to mother, wife and sweetheart. Their "swords (Part IV.) are sheathed and war's fierce gun is hushed," and as throughout the war the "taps" meant the close of day, and rest for weary heart and body, so now the taps, or "lights out," are heard once more in the dim distance (typical of the close of the great civil strife), and as all shall hear them when life's great battle is o'er. To the north, the close of battle meant victory; and now we hear above the inspiring strains of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," the cry of victory.

After this, the theme of agitation occurs again, on the words, "With hatred guided hand."

In the finale occurs a brilliant coda—wherein is heard a flourish of trumpets—and then a repetition of the theme of exaltation on the words, "Emancipator, patriot true," etc.

The greatest climax is at the very close, on the words, "All honor to our glorious Lincoln."

PROGRAM.

1. Music: Coronation March.....Chas. Le Thiere
Orchestra.
2. Introductory Remarks.....W. C. Washburn
3. Invocation.....Rev. Hugo G. Eisenlohr
4. Song: Star-Spangled Banner.
Children's Chorus and Orchestra.
5. Address.....Dr. John M. Withrow
6. Ode "Our Lincoln".....Poem by W. C. Washburn
Music by Jos. Surdo. Children's Chorus and Orchestra.
Sung by 750 Public School Children from Eighteenth District,
Eleventh District and Sherman Schools, under direction
of Prof. Jos. Surdo. First Public Performance.
7. Oration: An Appreciation of Abraham Lincoln.
.....Bishop William Fraser McDowell, of Chicago, Ill.
8. Music: National Airs.....Theo. Moses, Op. 81
Orchestra.
9. Song: America.
Children's Chorus and Orchestra.
Audience is requested to stand and join in singing.
10. Benediction.....Dr. Chas. Frederick Goss

DR. JOHN M. WITHROW,
Master of Ceremonies.

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W. C. Washburn, President.

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Chief Usher,

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Committee in Charge:

H. V. Speelman.

Charles Ottermann.



